

# Annual Results Report

**2023**

**Burundi**

## Acknowledgements

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# Section 1: Context and Overview

## 1.1 Changes to the Operational Context

In 2023, political and security conditions in Burundi improved significantly, encouraging 26,500 refugees to voluntarily return. Given the trend observed, a contingency plan was developed for a possible massive refugee return from Tanzania. The Tripartite Commission, recognizing this positive trend, shifted its focus from facilitating to promoting voluntary returns. Donors, such as KOICA and EU, have contributed to the reintegration through funding projects of education, livelihood, shelter, and social cohesion, yet the needs persist.

However, UNHCR navigated its operations amidst challenging economic conditions such as unbalanced imports and exports leading to foreign currency shortages which led to essential import product scarcities, including fuel, and inflated commodity prices, affecting operational capacities.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo joined the East Africa Community in 2023 to strengthen regional cooperation. However, the security situation and the conflict in Eastern DRC escalated and impacted the political regional context and deteriorated diplomatic relations between EAC members. This context prompted UNHCR to prepare for a potential massive influx of refugees from DRC.

The country upheld its open-door policy for refugees and asylum seekers allocating a new refugee site in Rutana province. In 2023, Burundi received 3,100 asylum seekers. Authorities facilitated the inclusion of some refugees in joint livelihood and social protection programs such as PRODECI and MERANKABANDI II (funded by the World Bank), offering access to employment and supplementing the reduced food rations witnessed throughout the year. In 2023, at the Global Refugee Forum, Burundi reaffirmed its commitment to including refugees and returnees into the national system and economy. 15 pledges were made by humanitarian and development actors to support forcibly displaced persons. Despite ongoing efforts, funding constraints persisted, with only 35% of the total requirements met.

## 1.2. Progress Against the Desired Impact

### 1. Impact Area: Attaining Favorable Protection Environments

All PoC in seeking international protection enjoy their rights in Burundi

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Actual (2023)
1.1 Proportion of people seeking international protection who are able to access asylum procedures	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%
1.2 Proportion of people who are able to move freely within the country of habitual residence	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	37.20%	37.28%

In Burundi, although freedom of movement without distinction is enshrined in the law, in practice, only urban refugees have the right to move freely. Freedom of movement for camp-based refugees is subject to obtaining an exit permit.

UNHCR successfully advocated with the government to lift the decision made in 2022 to suspend the issuance of exit permits to camp-based refugees, except for medical and resettlement cases. Regarding access to territory, border monitoring activities including sensitization of immigration officers at entry points, have periodically been conducted. This facilitated access to the territory and no instance of refoulement was reported in Burundi in 2023. Several sessions were organized with the General Commissariat for Migration, ONPRA, and other relevant stakeholders to analyze the 2021 migration law that repealed the 2008 refugee law and enable all parties to have the same understanding and improve practices in the field. These dialogues focused on access to territory and freedom of movement.

Despite decreasing resources, capacities were maintained to ensure asylum seekers and refugees' registration, including refugee status determination, was conducted within the legal timeframe. UNHCR has also ensured that legal assistance is provided to asylum seekers in need. Thanks to the concerted efforts of UNICEF and its implementing partner SAD, together with UNHCR, ONPRA, and the civil registrar - many refugee children obtained birth certificates, enabling them to access other rights. In regard to child protection, alternative care arrangements were implemented, and existing child protection community-based mechanisms were maintained. All these outcomes have seen an improvement to the protection of forcibly displaced persons.

Regarding the country's legal framework, Burundi is yet to ratify the Statelessness Conventions, one of its pledges at the GRF.

### 2. Impact Area: Realizing Rights in Safe Environments

By 2023 access to basic needs including health, nutrition, HIV, safe shelter, clean energy, basic items, water, sanitation and hygiene facilities is granted to PoC in Burundi

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Actual (2023)
2.2 Proportion of people residing in physically safe and secure settlements with access to basic facilities	IDPs	2.23%	0.00%
2.2 Proportion of people residing in physically safe and secure settlements with access to basic facilities	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	15.10%	5.24%
2.2 Proportion of people residing in physically safe and secure settlements with access to basic facilities	Returnees	4.60%	0.54%

2.2 Proportion of people residing in physically safe and secure settlements with access to basic facilities	Stateless Persons	100.00%	100.00%
2.3 Proportion of people with access to health services	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	78.10%	82.82%
2.3 Proportion of people with access to health services	Returnees	81.30%	81.28%

The most recent poverty data for Burundians was 64.9 percent in 2021. Although no data currently exists specifically on refugees, asylum seekers or returnees, it is well recognized that they face high rates of poverty and endure difficult living conditions. The National Institute of Statistics in Burundi is undertaking a general census of population, habitat, agriculture, and livestock to update these figures in 2024 and refugees and asylum seekers are included in this census. Additionally, UNHCR is planning to undertake a Forced Displacement Survey, which will explore in detail the legal, civil-political, and economic status of refugee, returnee and host community households in Burundi.

According to the Results Monitoring Survey (RMS) conducted in 2023, only 5.24 per cent of refugees and asylum seekers are residing in physically safe and secure settlements. The stateless population recorded in UNHCR's database all reside in safe housing in large cities; Bujumbura, Gitega, Rumonge, Musinga and Makamba. In camps, refugees have access to water supply within 30 minutes walking distance, and 6 blocks of latrines are within a 10-meter distance. Routine troubleshooting and development of backup systems ensured uninterrupted water supply. Generally, access to water meets quantity, quality, and equity standards. Every refugee also had access to sanitation facilities.

In health and nutrition, the under 5 mortality and crude mortality rates was respectively maintained to around 0.2 deaths/1000/months and 0.1 deaths/1000/months thanks to the tremendous multisectoral effort.

### 3. Impact Area: Empowering Communities and Achieving Gender Equality

**All refugee and returnee children and youth of school age in primary, secondary and tertiary access to education through the inclusion in the national education legal framework and complementary pathways by 2023**

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Actual (2023)
3.1 Proportion of people who have the right to decent work	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	27.89%	100.00%
3.2a Proportion of children and young people enrolled in primary education	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	77.94%	73.00%
3.2a Proportion of children and young people enrolled in primary education	Returnees	52.78%	82.56%
3.2b Proportion of children and young people enrolled in secondary education	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	59.12%	58.74%
3.3 Proportion of people feeling safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark	IDPs	87.91%	66.34%
3.3 Proportion of people feeling safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	87.86%	91.13%
3.3 Proportion of people feeling safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark	Returnees	90.84%	94.06%

While the Migration Law of 2021 grants refugees the right to work, practical challenges hinder refugees from securing formal sector employment. According to UNHCR's Result Monitoring Survey, 82.8% of refugees in camps are unemployed compared to 53.1% of urban refugees. 76.8% of female refugees are unemployed compared to 69.0% of unemployed men. This reveals both a gender disparity and a disadvantage for camp-based refugees.

73% of refugee children and youth (camps and urban) were enrolled in primary school and 58.74% in secondary school mainly with the support of UNHCR.

By law, refugees are not excluded from the national education system, however in practice this is inconsistent. Refugees in the 5 camps follow the DRC curriculum while those in urban areas can access public schools. While refugee and returnee learners face distinct challenges in accessing education, they both require tailored responses to their specific educational needs that so far have not been incorporated into national policies. For this reason, in November 2023 the Ministry of Education with the support of UNHCR and in partnership with the International Institute for Educational Planning has launched the process of developing a strategy aimed at refugee inclusion and improving access to education for returnees. This process will continue in 2024 and is in line with the pledge made by the government in 2021 to promote refugee and returnee inclusion in the national education system.

The rise in proportion of returnees feeling safe walking alone in their neighborhood from 90.84% to 94.07% in 2023 may be attributed to the enhanced security measures, community programs, and reintegration efforts, including job opportunities and social support. For IDPs, results indicate a decline in the sense of safety among this population type in their current locations compared to the previous year's data. A potential explanation for this decline could be security issues in the surveyed region, specifically in Mutimbuzi, which borders the DRC.

## 4. Impact Area: Securing Solutions

### More POCs benefit from a wider range of solutions in 2023

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Actual (2023)
4.1 Number of refugees who voluntarily return in safety and dignity to their country of origin	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	21,788	0
4.2a Number of people who departed on resettlement	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	1,298	4,364
4.2b Number of people who departed through complementary pathways	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	20	1
4.3a Number of stateless people for whom nationality is granted or confirmed	Stateless Persons	0	0
4.3b Number of refugees for whom residency status is granted or confirmed	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0	0

In 2023, there was no repatriation of refugees from Burundi to any country of origin. Despite the provision in the Migration Law allowing refugees to apply for permanent residence and the eligibility of East African Community (EAC) citizens for simplified residency, no permanent residence requests were received from refugees during this period.

The absence of requests for permanent residence from refugees in Burundi in 2023 are likely influenced by various factors: Refugees may not be aware of the opportunities provided by the Migration Law, or they might face barriers in understanding and navigating the application process. Additionally, refugees may have chosen not to apply for permanent residence due to uncertainties about the stability of their situation or a preference for other durable solutions, such as resettlement.

During the reporting period, 4,364 individuals left Burundi for resettlement. This represented 24% of

Burundi's 2023 Projected Global Resettlement Needs (PGRN) estimated at 18,500. But in comparison to previous years, the 2023 departure figure was the highest recorded by the Burundi Operation in the recent past - tripling the number of departures recorded in 2022. This was attributed to a strong response towards UNHCR advocacy to process the 6,500 post submission individuals that remained pending in resettlement countries' pipeline.

## 1.3 Challenges to Achieving Impacts

Despite dialogues on the 2021 law on the issuance of exit permits, different practices for camp-based refugees impacted their right to freedom of movement. With ONPRA having sole authority and no UNHCR oversight on the issuance of exit permit requirements, contradictions against the government's commitment to promoting freedom of movement and refugee self-reliance have been observed. This also posed a challenge to resettlement activities where inconsistent and ad-hoc restrictive measures on freedom of movement were imposed by the government, including on applicants who went through resettlement selection interviews.

During the reporting period, 5,363 exit permits were granted, allowing refugees to leave the camps. UNHCR is not informed of the total number of permit requests to ONPRA. Due to the continued volatile situation in eastern DRC where the majority of Congolese refugees originate from, return to the DRC remained unsafe. This stymied the intentions of the Government of Burundi and DRC to sign a tripartite agreement with UNHCR on voluntary returns early in 2023. There were no major challenges to refugees applying for permanent residence or Burundian citizenship. However, these solutions are perceived to be a lengthy process with high costs. The majority of refugees continued to live below the poverty threshold, forcing them to wholly depend on humanitarian aid. The 40 per cent reduction of WFP food aid exacerbated this situation. Refugee camps remained congested with limited space for new infrastructure while existing ones remained dilapidated. Moreover, limited employment opportunities for refugees and access to land remained limited. Due to limited resources, planned livelihoods activities could not be delivered by UNHCR including technical and vocational education and training (TVET), financial literacy training, fish-farming, bakery, reinforcement of small shops, mushroom cultivation, and handicrafts.

## 1.4 Collaboration and Partnerships

UNHCR has engaged in strategic partnerships with key organizations, including international/national NGOs, and government bodies such as National Office for the Protection of Refugees and Stateless Persons - ONPRA and Directorate General of Repatriation and Resettlement - GRRR, to enhance its annual strategy for forcibly displaced persons. These efforts are in collaboration with national structures, such as health and education.

UNHCR's role includes coordinating refugee-related activities together with the government, both in Bujumbura and refugee camps, through general and sectoral meetings. In addition, UNHCR has established coordination mechanisms under tripartite agreements for the repatriation and reintegration of Burundian returnees and has also actively responded to internal displacement caused by floods, as well as managing Congolese refugee resettlement cases.

At the 2023 Global Refugee Forum, the Government of Burundi reiterated its 2021 pledges for sustainable solutions and socio-economic empowerment of refugees and returnees; while 15 new commitments were made by NGOs, private sector, and UN agencies.

UNHCR hosted a diplomatic café to share outcomes of the tripartite meeting with Tanzania and Burundi focused on voluntary repatriation. UNHCR also coordinates the EU INTPA project for refugee protection and returnee reintegration. Various partners participated in the reintegration process, including IOM for



shelter, the government in collaboration with FAO and WFP to assist with livelihoods, IFAD and AfDB on rural entrepreneurship, and ZOA with land certification.

Furthermore, the UNHCR-World Bank partnership in Burundi is strong, based on a broad multisectoral operational engagement supporting the forcibly displaced and their host communities through three projects on skills and entrepreneurship support, social protection, and community development. The World Bank together with the UN system supported the Government of Burundi in preparing a Prevention and Resilience Action Plan in the context of accessing additional IDA20 FCV envelope.

## Section 2: Results

### 2.1. Outcomes and Achievements

#### 1. Outcome Area: Access to Territory, Reg. and Documentation

**Enhance the environment of asylum by preventing refoulement and improve reception of conditions**

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
1.1 Proportion of refugees and asylum seekers registered on an individual basis	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
1.2 Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority	IDPs	67.18%	75.00%	100.00%
1.2 Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	90.65%
1.2 Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority	Returnees	55.28%	60.00%	87.11%
1.3 Proportion of people with legally recognized identity documents or credentials	IDPs	96.70%	100.00%	76.55%
1.3 Proportion of people with legally recognized identity documents or credentials	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	94.90%	100.00%	78.92%

#### Progress Against the Desired Outcome

ONPRA, as the governmental body in charge of registration and refugee status determination in Burundi, registered all 3,107 asylum seekers on an individual basis in 2023.

Thanks to the concerted interventions of UNICEF through their implementing partner SAD and relevant stakeholders including ONPRA, DGRRR, Civil Registry and UNHCR, birth certificates for refugee and returnee children were issued – allowing for access to fundamental rights. This resulted in a significant percentage of returnees possessing birth certificates and national identity cards, highlighting their proactive efforts to secure identity documents. According to the protection monitoring of more than 25,600 returnees, carried out by UNHCR implementing partner CEJP together with CNIDH and DGRRR, 74 percent obtained civil status documentation in 2023.

The extension of the registration period for newborns from three to twelve months, facilitated by UNHCR advocacy, has provided flexibility for returnees, reducing financial burdens. However, there is a notable challenge as many returnees are unaware of the requirement to reconstitute vital documents in each province, hindering their access to essential services.

In March 2023, UNHCR conducted successful advocacy that resulted in the extension of the validity of refugee ID cards from three to five years, hence providing longer-term documentation for refugees.

In 2023, UNHCR in collaboration with the National Independent Commission for Human Rights conducted several clinics to facilitate the obtention of national identity cards and medical assurance cards for IDPs in various parts of the country. 540 IDPs received national IDs, while 224 vulnerable IDPs received a medical insurance card.

## 2. Outcome Area: Status Determination

All PoC have access to a fair RSD procedure, interviews conducted and feedback provided to PoC

Persons at risk of statelessness enjoy the nationalization, durable legal status and get permanent residency

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
2.1 Average processing time (in days) from registration to first instance asylum decision	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	30.00	40.00	45.00
2.2 Proportion of people undergoing asylum procedures who have access to legal representation	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	97.75%	99.00%	97.87%
2.3 Proportion of people undergoing asylum procedures who have access to an effective appeal mechanism after first instance rejection of their claim	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

### Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Refugee status determination activities were implemented in 2023 by governmental bodies in accordance with Law No. 1/125 of November 5, 2021, regulating migrations. A total of 3107 asylum seekers were registered during this period. These cases, along with others pending, were evaluated according to the established procedure. In the first instance, the advisory commission examined the cases of 3351 asylum seekers, among which 2673 individuals were recognized, representing a recognition rate of 80 per cent. On appeal, 610 cases were reviewed by the appeals committee, with 139 individuals recognized, translating to a recognition rate of 23 percent. Icirore C'Amahoro (ICCA) provided legal assistance to asylum seekers in the appeal process.

The migration law specifies a maximum period of 60 days, from registration, to take a decision on refugee status at first instance. The target average duration from registration to the decision in first instance is 40 days. In 2023, it was an average of 45 days. Despite this regression, the legal processing timeframe was respected.

The joint UNHCR/ONPRA committee evaluated and granted derivative status to 169 individuals in camps and in Bujumbura during the period. UNHCR offered technical opinions on cases during eligibility interviews, CCER meetings, or the appeals committee. It also organized training on refugee status determination for ONPRA protection officers, CGM agents responsible for the reception and identification of asylum seekers, and ICCA staff responsible for legal support to asylum seekers in the appeal process. This training covered international protection, country of origin information research, inclusion criteria, credibility assessment, interview techniques, an introduction to exclusion and cessation clauses.

UNHCR was alerted for cases containing inconsistencies with their status in proGres incorrectly created by ONPRA. All cases were regularized jointly by UNHCR and ONPRA.

## 4. Outcome Area: Gender-based Violence

Risk of violence, exploitation and abuse of children are identified and addressed and protection mechanisms strengthened.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
4.1 Proportion of people who know where to access available GBV services	IDPs	87.91%	100.00%	85.15%

4.1 Proportion of people who know where to access available GBV services	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	88.46%	100.00%	85.25%
4.1 Proportion of people who know where to access available GBV services	Returnees	87.92%	100.00%	77.15%
4.2 Proportion of people who do not accept violence against women	IDPs	68.75%	80.00%	54.43%
4.2 Proportion of people who do not accept violence against women	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	72.31%	85.00%	69.20%
4.3 Proportion of survivors who are satisfied with GBV case management services	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	64.24%	75.00%	96.43%

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

### Returnees:

While the Burundian government warmly embraces returnees, protection monitoring reveals that GBV is prevalent nationwide. In the transit centers, all concerned individuals received dignity kits without reported issues, and surplus kits were handed over for continued distribution in 2024. UNHCR and UNFPA collaborate to map service providers and GBV survivor centers, aiming to establish a comprehensive database for easier access to support. This initiative enhances the coordinated response to GBV, underlining the significance of mapping service providers in enhancing the protection and well-being of survivors. GBV prevention committees have been established in various communes across Burundi, prioritizing those with a high return of repatriates. The establishment of GBV committees nationwide could enhance local family and community counselling. Strengthening the capacity of public service providers is essential for an efficient government response.

### Refugees:

GBV committees have been established in the camps, ensuring women's voices are heard and consulted in various decisions. Effective strategies for gender inclusion involve advanced communication on beneficiary selection criteria, emphasizing the roles of women and girls in development activities, and fostering close collaboration with local administrations and other partners on the ground. A gender and protection assessment was jointly conducted by WFP and UNHCR in 2023, preceding the change in distribution modality from in-kind to evoucher. In Burundi, 1,683 individuals actively participate as members in refugee committees. These committees are strategically positioned at both central and sectoral levels, ensuring comprehensive representation across diverse geographical areas. There is a gender-diverse representation, with 781 women and 902 men serving as committee members. The presence of an ideas box in the camp serves as a vital tool for GBV risk mitigation, providing refugees with a platform to anonymously share concerns, suggestions, and experiences, fostering community dialogue and empowerment. Gender markers have been applied to all UNSDCF indicators, highlighting the consideration of the gender aspect across all markers.

## 8. Outcome Area: Well-Being and Basic Needs

### Ensure well-being and provide basic Needs

#### IDPs and host communities access to immediate needs and benefit from national durable solution strategies.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
8.1 Proportion of people that receive cash transfers and/or non-food items	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	62.80%	65.00%	62.80%
8.1 Proportion of people that receive cash transfers and/or non-food items	Returnees	100.00%	70.00%	95.30%

8.2 Proportion of people with primary reliance on clean (cooking) fuels and technology	IDPs	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%
8.2 Proportion of people with primary reliance on clean (cooking) fuels and technology	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0.00%	100.00%	91.00%
8.2 Proportion of people with primary reliance on clean (cooking) fuels and technology	Returnees	100.00%	100.00%	95.30%

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Since October 2020, Cash Based Interventions (CBI) have moved from the previous cash-in-hand distribution system for returnees to mobile money. Returnees receive a phone device and sim card to facilitate receipt of this transfer.

CBIs are one of UNHCR's most important protection tools as part of its humanitarian response programs in Burundi. Cash assistance provides the necessary flexibility for returnees to meet their basic subsistence needs and facilitates integration in their areas of return. In 2023, UNHCR distributed cash to 25,242 returnees compared to 21,788 in 2022, using mobile money. Starting from July 2023, cash was distributed by the new Financial Services Provider, FINBANK. From 1st April 2023, the repatriation cash grant has been revised from \$75 for minors and \$150 for adults to \$200 for all regardless of age.

UNHCR is also implementing a cash and voucher intervention for refugees in all 5 camps. They receive monthly cash and voucher assistance for hygiene and cooking energy needs (briquettes). In 2023, UNHCR distributed cash and vouchers to 54,885 individuals in all 5 camps. The amount being distributed with this intervention depends on the distribution protocol which also depend on the family size.

In addition, UNHCR continued to progress in efforts to ensure the use and promotion of clean energy and environmental protection. The use of briquette for cooking supported by UNHCR is provided to 91% of refugees and asylum seekers in all 5 refugee camps. Solar-powered streetlamps lit streets and community latrines, and each household benefited from a portable streetlamp for lighting and telephone charging.

According to Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) 2023 findings:

- 98% against 74% of 2022 of returnees have reported being able to improve living conditions significantly.
- 83% against 28% of 2022 reported having access to Bank Accounts.
- 94% against 92% of 2022 have reported feeling safe when making cash transactions like withdrawals and transfers.
- 84% against 65% of 2022 against have reported availability of basic need in local markets.
- Regarding spending of the CBI assistance received, 94% have reported that their expenses include food in the first line and buying plot and land secondly.
- 66% of refugees (against 28% of 2022) have reported being on the pathway to sustainable solutions.

## 9. Outcome Area: Sustainable Housing and Settlements

**All PoC live in sustainable housing and settlements**

**More PoC access to alternative energy**

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
9.1 Proportion of people living in habitable and affordable housing	IDPs	5.99%	20.00%	3.21%
9.1 Proportion of people living in habitable and affordable housing	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	7.44%	40.00%	10.03%

9.1 Proportion of people living in habitable and affordable housing	Returnees	4.59%	20.00%	9.23%
9.2 Proportion of people that have energy to ensure lighting	IDPs	67.03%	70.00%	69.94%
9.2 Proportion of people that have energy to ensure lighting	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	88.97%	95.00%	91.04%
9.2 Proportion of people that have energy to ensure lighting	Returnees	73.75%	85.00%	74.80%

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2023, approximately 17,300 forcibly displaced persons received shelter assistance, while 26,500 have access to energy for lighting. The beneficiaries of this support are primarily the refugees housed in the 5 camps and returnees in the different provinces of the country. They received three types of assistance for their shelters which are: rehabilitation, construction, and reconstruction. Rehabilitation involves repairing shelters with damaged doors, walls, windows, or sheet metal. In 2023, 202 shelters were rehabilitated across the five camps. As part of the rehabilitation, 340 other households received a total of 1,417 roofing sheets in the three eastern camps.

Reconstruction was mainly done in Bwagiriza and Nyankanda camps. In Bwagiriza it involved rebuilding the shelters destroyed following torrential rains. This reconstruction was undertaken using Council for Education and Development (COPEDE) own funds. 55 shelters were therefore rebuilt. At the Nyankanda camp, 187 IKEA shelters were rebuilt by readapting them into adobe brick shelters, exceeding the initial target of 137 IKEA shelters. This was made possible thanks to funding from Latter Day Saints Church (LDSC).

Shelters were constructed for refugees and IDPs. For refugees, it concerned those newly arrived in the camps. 381 shelters were built, comprising 333 in the camps and 48 on the new refugee site. 106 shelters were constructed for IDPs who had alternative land parcels in Rumonge province. Vulnerable returnees benefited from shelter kits comprised of metal sheets, windows, doors, and nails. A total of 1,768 kits were distributed to returnees across 8 provinces, surpassing the initial plan of 895 kits. This was made possible thanks to financial support from KOICA.

For the well-being and development of the forcibly displaced persons, community infrastructures were built or rehabilitated in 2023. In the 5 camps, health center laboratories were rehabilitated and equipped thanks to funding from World Diabetes Fund (WDF). Our partner Save the Children International (SCI) built and rehabilitated IDEA Boxes to benefit children in the five refugee camps. KOICA has financed 36 classrooms with latrines and an administrative block in the provinces receiving the most returnees.

On energy, 11,951 solar lamp kits were distributed to in-camp refugees (11,500 to camp inhabitants and 451 to new refugee households transferred from transit centres). All returnees in 2023 (7,714) received a solar lamp kit per household. 492 solar lamps were also distributed to IDPs. These solar kits are distributed per household. In 2023, a major project funded by the European Union to construct solar panels in the 5 camps began. This project will continue and conclude in 2024. The goal is for each camp to benefit from a minimum of 29 kW which will light streets and public areas and power community infrastructure.

Solar-powered streetlamps lit streets and community latrines, and each household benefited from a portable streetlamp for lighting and telephone charging.

## 10. Outcome Area: Healthy Lives

**All refugees and returnees access to health Care, HIV & reproductive and nutrition services through the national or an alternative system**

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
10.1 Proportion of children aged 9 months to five years who have received measles vaccination	IDPs	95.17%	100.00%	90.54%
10.1 Proportion of children aged 9 months to five years who have received measles vaccination	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	94.09%	100.00%	63.00%
10.1 Proportion of children aged 9 months to five years who have received measles vaccination	Returnees	96.79%	100.00%	73.63%
10.2. Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
10.2. Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel	Returnees	100.00%	100.00%	96.55%

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

UNHCR provided forcibly displaced persons with healthcare services such as primary and secondary health care services. At refugee camp level, 117,601 consultations were carried out including 36,456 for children under 5 years old, representing 31% of all curative consultations. Despite a selective referral system, 2,430 patients were transferred to referral hospitals. Effective management of common pathologies resulted in a low overall mortality rate of (0.17/1000/month) in adults and (0.30/1000/month) in children under 5 years old.

The UNHCR health partner continued to implement malnutrition prevention and response activities, such as nutrition screening and the management of malnutrition cases. This was coupled with a functional nutritional surveillance system with monthly screening to detect and refer cases of malnutrition to health care services. Two nutritional centers were opened in Bwagiriza and Nyankanda camps, where refugees can access supplementary feeding programs within the camps, improving access of refugees to nutritional services. As of December 2023, the prevalence of MAM, SAM and GAM rates are 3.5%, 0.65% and 4.2% respectively.

Most pregnant women gave birth at health centers and others were transferred to referral hospitals. 2,057 births were recorded and assisted by qualified health professionals. 227 People living with HIV/AIDS PLWHA were enrolled for antiretroviral treatment and prevention of mother-to-child transmission, antenatal and prenatal services including family planning were also provided to refugees.

UNHCR ensured that health professionals from both the refugee camps and partner hospitals received capacity building sessions to strengthen their skills on the early detection, prevention, and management of non-communicable diseases. Similarly, laboratory services at the five health facilities of the camps were built, solarized, and equipped with modern amenities. Some patients with non-communicable diseases were assisted with supplementary feeding.

UNHCR provided health facilities of the camps and the host health districts with cold-chain refrigerators, cold boxes, laptops, printers, and other equipment as its contribution to the government's effort of prevention and response to Covid-19. The Ministry of Health (MoH) provided measles vaccines which were administered to 875 children against a target of 847 from 9 months to 5 years of age, representing an implementation rate of 103.3%. The vaccines were provided at the health facility by GVC staff supported by UNHCR. Returnees systematically underwent medical screening upon arrival at transit centers. Those identified with serious health related challenges were transported by GVC to the main health facilities for medical assistance.

## 11. Outcome Area: Education

### Access of PoC youth to diversified tertiary education opportunities

All PoC at school age have physical access to education due to the increase of educational infrastructure

Protection of school aged PoC girls enhanced through access to education

School aged PoCs show increased school performance due to the inclusion into the national system and enhancement of the quality of education.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
11.1 Proportion of young people enrolled in tertiary and higher education	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	1.31%	35.00%	1.03%
11.2 Proportion of children and young people enrolled in the national education system	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	9.80%	55.00%	7.78%

### Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Statistics indicate that 23,571 refugee children/youth (11,516 F and 12,055 M) and 2,437 (1,196 M and 1,241 F) urban refugees were enrolled across schools in five refugee camps and in 22 public schools in Bujumbura city and Rumonge province. The proportion of refugees enrolled in national education systems at primary and secondary level in urban areas through the support of UNHCR stands at 7.78% and the majority are urban refugees. At tertiary level, 1% of refugees were enrolled at university.

All children enrolled in camp schools follow the Congolese curriculum and are taught by 357 refugee teachers and 61 Burundian nationals temporarily hired. There are camp-based refugee children attending Burundian schools located in proximity to the camps and in urban areas (Bujumbura in particular). The exam pass rate is 93% in primary education and 60% in secondary in refugee camps. Seven refugee children with disabilities in camps and 145 unaccompanied refugee children in urban areas were supported to pursue education. 283 refugee teachers in camps were trained. 3,107 girls in refugee camps were assisted in hygienic kit as a strategy of maintaining girls at school and preventing girls' dropouts. 1,625 camp based primary students did the National Examination with a 93% exam pass rate, 1,421 camp based secondary students did the National Examination with 84% exam pass rate and 575 out of camp based secondary students did the National Examination with a 45% exam pass rate. At higher/tertiary education level, 141 refugees and 33 returnee youth were enrolled in universities through DAFI, DAFI/AUF and UNHCR scholarships, of whom 35% are female. Out of 174 beneficiaries, 51 refugee youth (29%) are enrolled in two national universities at the same cost as nationals which facilitates inclusion of refugees in national education systems.

As refugees in camps are not included in the national education system, the Ministry of Education with the support of UNHCR and the International Institute for Education Planning (IIEP) of UNESCO conducted a detailed analysis of Refugees' Education needs in camps which is the first step of the development of a strategy to include them in the national education system. This strategy will also focus on improving access to returnees. UNICEF and the Primary Impact Programme contributed to school kits for refugee learners, AECID and Loyola Foundation in construction of school infrastructures in refugee camps, and Government of Monaco and KOICA in the construction of school infrastructures in return areas to facilitate school reintegration for returnee children. DAFI intervened at higher education with a new enrollment of 30 (23 refugees and 7 returnees) in 2023.)



## 12. Outcome Area: Clean Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

### All PoC access to clean water , sanitation and hygiene services and facilities

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
12.1 Proportion of people using at least basic drinking water services	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	58.97%	65.00%	97.66%
12.1 Proportion of people using at least basic drinking water services	Returnees	32.92%	45.00%	61.25%
12.2 Proportion of people with access to a safe household toilet	IDPs	81.32%	90.00%	80.76%
12.2 Proportion of people with access to a safe household toilet	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	87.18%	90.00%	92.67%
12.2 Proportion of people with access to a safe household toilet	Returnees	81.67%	90.00%	77.29%

### Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Water infrastructure was constructed and maintained, including water testing and chlorination. However, the quantity is not sufficient in all the camps. Kavumu and Musasa refugee camps have a limited quantity of water below the recommended average especially in summer season. In Musasa camp, the solar pumping system is no longer working, and the generator which is in poor condition is currently being used to pump water to the main water tank. In Kavumu refugee camp, the amount of water reaching the tank is insufficient during the dry season.

Additional sources of water are necessary for these camps. The complex challenge of accessing drinking water in Cishemere TC has been resolved through a connection to the communal water supply system. This has not only eliminated the need for costly water trucking but also ensured a reliable supply of water in both quality and quantity to Cishemere TC.

Refugees are using communal latrine blocks constructed of durable materials, comprised of six holes per block, where each compartment is used by 4 households only. To ensure maximum hygiene practices, there is a daily cleaning schedule for all the households.

During the reporting period, 6 latrine blocks were built with UNHCR funds and 13 by World Vision falling short of the 155 required across 4 refugee camps. Nyankanda camp meets the minimum standard with regards to latrines as they were carefully considered during the camp's initial planning. 13 latrines were built in Bwagiriza camp for persons with specific needs.

All waste is securely contained on-site to prevent any contamination of the natural, living, learning, working and communal environments. In general, the routine activities primarily involved repairing broken and leaking pipes, replacing damaged water taps, cleaning water storage tanks, maintaining spring water sources, and ensuring the chlorination of both drinking water and water used for handwashing. Additional activities involved cleaning the gutters within the camps, emptying full latrine blocks, and applying spray treatments to the latrines. Awareness-raising sessions on water points utilization, water conservation and on environmental hygiene management were also conducted in the camps.

## 13. Outcome Area: Self Reliance, Economic Inclusion and Livelihoods

### Socio-economic conditions of PoC improved through available self-reliance and livelihood opportunities

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
13.1. Proportion of people with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider	IDPs	54.95%	60.00%	23.76%
13.1. Proportion of people with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	42.31%	45.00%	32.71%
13.1. Proportion of people with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider	Returnees	19.17%	25.00%	20.18%
13.2. Proportion of people who self-report positive changes in their income compared to previous year	IDPs	0.00%	30.00%	6.93%
13.2. Proportion of people who self-report positive changes in their income compared to previous year	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0.78%	30.00%	7.51%
13.2. Proportion of people who self-report positive changes in their income compared to previous year	Returnees	0.83%	30.00%	6.82%
13.3 Proportion of people (working age) who are unemployed	IDPs	16.01%	20.00%	11.59%
13.3 Proportion of people (working age) who are unemployed	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	4.32%	35.00%	13.74%
13.3 Proportion of people (working age) who are unemployed	Returnees	2.45%	20.00%	7.76%

### Progress Against the Desired Outcome

59% refugees have access to mobile payments, deposit and withdraw money, and pay their bills through phones since mobile money agents are present in areas where traditional banks are absent, providing financial services to underserved refugee communities. Most refugees are involved in village savings and loan groupings (VSLA) which helps them obtain small credits for business and other needs, and some are part of cooperatives or associations having an account with financial institutions.

The PRODECI-TURIKUMWE development project financed by World Bank that supports access to services, rural livelihoods, food security and nutrition in the context of poverty, contributes to make positive changes in refugees' income in 2023. By the end of the year, the project had identified 359 refugee micro-projects, with 127 agricultural micro-projects having received funding already. 4 refugee cooperatives also received funding to enlarge their activities, promoting employment, and hence increased income among refugees and the host communities. However, according to the RMS survey, only 0.5% stated an improvement in their life. The MERANKABANDI II social protection project financed by World Bank saw 3,420 out of 3,967 households (86%) benefit from a telephone to receive transfers of 72,000 BIF per household every two months in the Eastern camps.

For returnees, the unemployment rate is high, as the Results Monitoring Survey (RMS) report shows that only 39% had an activity in the 7 days prior to the survey. Given that 90% of returnees are agricultural workers looking for day jobs, job insecurity is very high, even though work passes in Tanzania enable returnees to earn a daily income. Livelihood programs implemented in agriculture with projects from FAO (distribution of seeds), WFP in food security and cash, World Vision, DRC in perm garden, DGRRR with the distribution of 3,000 hoes, rabbit breeding projects and IGAs benefited returnees in 2023. During the second semester of 2023, collaboration with FinBank facilitated the access to digital finance for new returnees who arrived in Burundi with the distribution of phones, sim card, cash, and automatic bank account to head of household. World Vision also supported returnees with seed funds to integrate existing

VSLAs within their communities of return. In 2023, UNHCR, UN Women, and JRS signed an agreement to implement livelihood projects for urban refugees, following a grant of US\$70,000 provided by UN Women.

## 14. Outcome Area: Voluntary Return and Sustainable Reintegration

**Voluntary return preparation, organization, assistance of voluntary return, support to area of origin sustain the reintegration**

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
14.1 Proportion of returnees with legally recognized identity documents or credentials	Returnees	68.00%	75.00%	89.62%

### Progress Against the Desired Outcome

The initial figure targeted for voluntary repatriation in 2023 to Burundi was 75,000. However, due to budgetary constraints and the operation not reaching half of the previous year's target, the target was revised downwards to 40,420. During the reporting period, 26,486 individuals were assisted to voluntarily return to Burundi. The increase in the value of return package in April 2023 helped boost repatriation figures from June to September 2023, around 6,000 in comparison to 4,000 received from January to June the previous year. Since the signing of the Tripartite Agreement in 2017, a total of 234,047 Burundian refugees have been assisted to return in safety and dignity to Burundi as of 31 December 2023. Additionally, Burundi received some returnees from Malawi following the signing of a MoU between UNHCR and the Government of Malawi that was further shared with the government for final validation and signature.

The Government of Burundi and UNHCR facilitated a technical mission on the voluntary repatriation process of Burundian refugees from Uganda, from 6-10 March 2023, and a cross-border technical meeting between UNHCR Burundi, UNHCR DRC, and the Governments of Burundi and DRC was held in the DRC from 27-28 March 2023. Two Tripartite meetings with the governments of Tanzania, Burundi and UNHCR were held in Gitega and Dar Es Salaam from 10-12 May 2023 and 27-30 November 2023 respectively where promotion of voluntary repatriation of Burundian refugees was recommended by both governments. Furthermore, the Government of Burundi and UNHCR facilitated a "Come & Tell" visit to Tanzania from 31 July to 4 August 2023. Sensitization materials in French, English, Kirundi, and Swahili were developed and disseminated during the information awareness campaigns.

According to the RMS 89.62% of returnees had legally recognized identity documents. However, during the year, 100% of the returnees were issued with an "Attestation de Reconnaissance" (Recognition Certificate) by the DGRRR. This document, which includes the family composition of the returnee households, grants every returnee access to civil status, national identification documents, and education in areas of return. It is worth mentioning the achievement that returnee children could reintegrate into school at their equivalent level back in the country of asylum, in contrast to previous practice which would set children back two years.

In 2023, the overall achievements of reintegration in Burundi included providing protection and facilitating access to services. Returnees were assisted in their areas of return through various projects mainly funded by KOICA and the European Union. To improve monitoring and address the protection needs of returnees, a comprehensive joint monitoring system was established. This mechanism aims to offer detailed insights into reintegration levels, identifying protection needs and gaps. The approach intends to bolster social cohesion at the community level, advocating for repatriation as a sustainable solution to refugee challenges.

## 15. Outcome Area: Resettlement and Complementary Pathways

### Eligible refugees to third country solutions including resettlement and complementary pathways get durable solution

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
15.1 Number of refugees submitted by UNHCR for resettlement	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	4,264	3,500	5,857
15.2 Average processing time from resettlement submission to departure under normal priority	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	365.00	183.00	274.00
15.3 Number of people admitted through complementary pathways from the host country	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	20	10	1

### Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2023, resettlement and complementary pathways remained a durable solution priority within the strategic protection framework. Considering the lack of foreseeable durable solutions for the refugees and asylum-seekers hosted in Burundi, the Congolese population which form 99% of the refugee population in Burundi was targeted for resettlement consideration - particularly those originating from the eastern part of the DRC and found to be in a protracted situation.

Following the approval of Group Processing methodology by the USA and in accordance with its 2023 Projected Global Resettlement Needs (PGRN) of 18,500 individuals, as well as the regional durable solution strategy, UNHCR Burundi recorded an increase in resettlement opportunities for majority of Congolese refugees.

Against the fore, Burundi Operation rolled out and implemented group processing methodology and consistent use of established standard operating procedures for case identification and processing. Burundi made tremendous success in submitting 5,857 persons to resettlement countries; the outcome of which, was surpassing its 2023 allocated quota of 3,500. This represented 148% of the annual target met.

As UNHCR Burundi made progressive advocacy with the USA, Canada, and Australia in processing the 6,500 cases that were pending in their pipeline since 2019; more than 3,500 individuals were processed by resettlement countries and decisions made with a 96% acceptance rate. Additionally, an increase in departures to the USA, Canada, Australia, and the UK was recorded - 4,364 departed for resettlement in 2023, doubling the number of departures recorded in the previous year.

In coordination with other stakeholders such as the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and the Government of Burundi, UNHCR facilitated out-processing of resettlement cases and departures, activities of which included counselling, logistical support to selection missions, and exit formalities.

In accordance with the Global Compact for Refugees (GCR) and the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) objectives, UNHCR strived to broaden refugees' access to complementary pathways, including education, and labor mobility programs to avail protection and solutions to refugees. One (1) person departed for France under one of its scholarship programs.

Installation of internet connectivity at interview sites was successfully achieved; as a result, effective processing of resettlement cases, deferrals, individual counselling, and management of expectations was achieved. In addition, measures to prevent fraud through consistent verification of biometrics for resettlement cases was a priority and effectively applied. Moreover, UNHCR benefitted from the earmarked funding from the USA's Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (BPRM); resource funds from which, 50% of resettlement activities were successfully implemented, including sustenance of resettlement staffing.

## 2.2. Age, Gender and Diversity

In 2023, UNHCR Burundi emphasized Age Gender and Diversity (AGD), Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP), and Gender Equality (GE) through community engagement and aligning with relevant frameworks and policies.

**Community Engagement:** Direct interactions during scheduled reception days, phone calls, and engagement with community mobilizers ensured effective communication. Refugee management structures and traditional methods like mailboxes contributed to an inclusive strategy, emphasizing diverse perspectives, and fostering community engagement. The operation initiated a Training of Trainers for 17 staff emphasizing recording complaints and feedback and categorizing AGD core actions.

**AGD Assessments in 2023:** Camp-Based and urban Refugees identified preferred feedback channels, emphasizing a toll-free line and shared their voices in project development. Recommendations included biometric verification, project funding, healthcare access, improved communication, coordination, and establishing a feedback and return system. For returnees and IDPs, Focus Group Discussion (FGD) results focused on empowerment through projects and identification of essential needs. Recommendations involved supporting income-generating projects and creating VSLA for displaced populations.

**Gender equality:** 1,683 refugees participated in gender-diverse committees. While a gender balance exists, female participation varies between urban areas and camps. Urban women actively engage, but a trend of reluctance is observed among camp women, requiring targeted awareness campaigns and safe spaces. Interventions on entrepreneurship and Resilience Trainings in the camps were aimed at empowering refugees, particularly women. These initiatives resulted in enhanced knowledge, successful business relaunches, and partnerships for product marketing. Agriculture, multimedia skills, and education initiatives further enhanced economic empowerment. For returnees: Collaboration with UNFPA to map service providers, establishment of GBV prevention committees, and distribution of dignity kits were key initiatives.

## Section 3: Resources

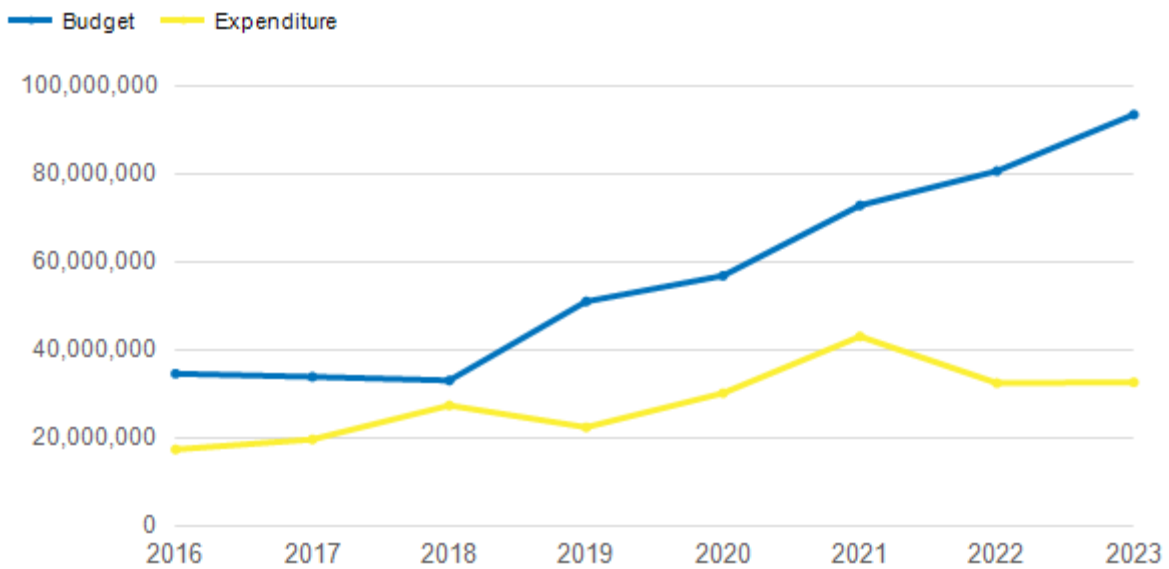
### 3.1 Financial Data

(Financial figures in USD)

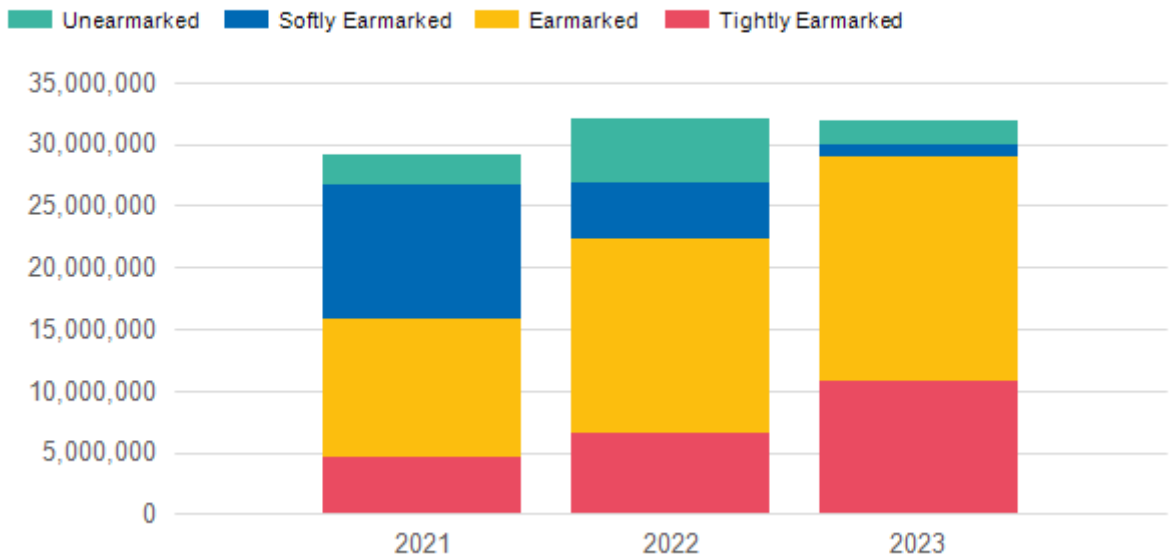
Impact Area	Final Budget	Funds Available	Funds Available as % of Budget	Expenditure	Expenditure as % of Funds Available
IA1: Protect	12,964,394	2,326,624	17.95%	2,326,624	100.00%
IA2: Assist	48,524,059	23,344,485	48.11%	23,257,398	99.63%
IA3: Empower	14,783,685	3,283,954	22.21%	3,283,954	100.00%
IA4: Solve	17,084,522	3,690,357	21.60%	3,690,357	100.00%
All Impact Areas		184,710			
<b>Total</b>	<b>93,356,660</b>	<b>32,830,130</b>	<b>35.17%</b>	<b>32,558,333</b>	<b>99.17%</b>

Outcome Area	Final Budget	Funds Available	Funds Available as % of Budget	Expenditure	Expenditure as % of Funds Available
OA1: Access/Doc	9,086,820	1,663,226	18.30%	1,663,226	100.00%
OA2: Status	1,053,100	279,647	26.55%	279,647	100.00%
OA4: GBV	3,274,474	394,902	12.06%	394,902	100.00%
OA8: Well-being	18,183,822	5,180,651	28.49%	5,180,651	100.00%
OA9: Housing	16,404,523	5,307,070	32.35%	5,307,070	100.00%
OA10: Health	4,561,731	4,076,527	89.36%	3,989,440	97.86%
OA11: Education	8,403,135	2,481,876	29.54%	2,481,876	100.00%
OA12: WASH	4,190,756	1,438,352	34.32%	1,438,352	100.00%
OA13: Livelihood	6,380,550	802,078	12.57%	802,078	100.00%
OA14: Return	12,894,763	2,457,980	19.06%	2,457,980	100.00%
OA15: Resettle	3,181,922	1,211,827	38.08%	1,211,827	100.00%
EA18: Support	5,741,063	7,351,284	128.05%	7,351,284	100.00%
All Outcome Areas		184,710			
<b>Total</b>	<b>93,356,660</b>	<b>32,830,130</b>	<b>35.17%</b>	<b>32,558,333</b>	<b>99.17%</b>

### Budget and Expenditure Trend



### Contributions Trend by Type



## 3.2. Resources Overview

UNHCR made considerable efforts to actively mobilize additional resources through donor briefings and organization of regular donor visits to the camps and return areas with the aim to keep the attention of the international community on the protracted refugee situation and reintegration needs. As a result, our OL was fully funded. However, only 35% of UNHCR Burundi’s financial requirements for 2023 amounting to \$93.4 million was funded, leaving a gap of 70% against the total operational needs. This impacted on the delivery of services as some services were partially prioritized, or delivered with reduced standards, for instance secondary and tertiary medical referrals were stopped from July 2023. Donors for the Burundi operation in 2023 were USA, Republic of Korea, European Union, Government of Japan, World Diabetes Fund, , France, USA for UNHCR, Germany, Canada, , Denmark, Canada, Principality of Monaco, and private donors in Italy and Denmark. Due to inflation, which was exacerbated by the demonetization of

Burundian franc, UNHCR's capacity to implement health, livelihoods, and protection interventions was further stretched and constrained.

The resource allocation was based on several parameters ranging from donor earmarking, lifesaving, fixed running costs, support to persons with specific needs, and operational, regional, and global UNHCR priorities. The following country operation priorities also formed part of UNHCR Burundi's resource prioritization: Fostering a safe protection environment for refugees and providing assistance in line with international and regional protection standards to broaden the protection space for people of concern, promoting the inclusion of people of concern in national systems, enhancing their self-sufficiency, supporting the attainment of durable solutions, and broadening partnerships.



## Section 4: Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

### 4.1 Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

In 2023, UNHCR Burundi navigated a dynamic and complex landscape, demanding an adaptable and flexible strategy. This approach underscored the vital role of agility in planning and responding, enabling adept addressing of emerging challenges and seizing of opportunities for impactful interventions. A key lesson from this period was the importance of flexibility to adjust to evolving situations, including fuel shortages and currency fluctuations, which affected operations and partnerships. The operation's adaptability allowed for a swift response to the needs of forcibly displaced and stateless persons, ensuring equitable results.

Another crucial insight from the annual strategy review was the vital role of continuous monitoring and evaluation in detecting protection and reintegration gaps, service delivery deficiencies and program implementation flaws. UNHCR Burundi's proactive evaluation approach led to timely adjustments, resource reallocation, and increased impact. It improved service delivery and engaged local communities and beneficiaries, resulting in culturally sensitive interventions.

The full funding of UNHCR Burundi's operation (OL) highlighted the pivotal contribution of the Private Sector Partnerships, e.g., WDF, Coop Italy, and LDS, in the funding of strategic activities. This collaboration played a key role in the operation's ability to address its priorities and achieve significant milestones in education, health, shelters and livelihoods among returnees and refugees. The power of strategic partnerships lies in achieving impactful and sustainable outcomes through collective efforts and resource sharing.

UNHCR Burundi's achievements demonstrated the power of coordinated local interventions with authorities and partners. These successes emphasized the value of partnerships, resource leverage, and a model for positive change. The foundation laid by UNHCR Burundi prioritizes adaptability, learning, and community engagement in achieving its mission.



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